



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

# ARBORETUM CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Sept - Oct 2019

1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153

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## Welcome Autumn!

In this issue, we are taking some time to celebrate the May Arboretum Society and the variety of events and workshops that they so work tirelessly on. Without the society's hard work, the Arboretum would be a totally different place. And if you are interested in becoming a member, or volunteering, we'll tell you about how to do that, too.

In our Meet the Staff interview, we'll get to know Connie Osburn a bit better and find out just how she got to know so much about all of those plants!

As the summer ends and a new season of splendid color arrives in the Arboretum, the time also comes to say goodbye to our AmeriCorps Interns. I don't know about you, but I get pretty attached to our Educators. I have worked with three of them so far, Katie, Danielle, and Mandy. Each year, I learn so much from them and I am always amazed at their energy, enthusiasm, creativity and love for the environment. I'm sad to see them go, but I know they have exciting adventures ahead.

Welcome Autumn!

Thanks, Bev Treadway, Editor

Email: [Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com](mailto:Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com)



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## Volunteer's Corner

By: Bev Treadway

### Updates!

#### Good Nature! Walking Tours for Seniors

Good Nature! Walking Tours for Seniors was such a success this summer that we are working on a Fall series. The Good Nature team will be meeting this month to discuss how the program will move forward. Be on the lookout for an email in the near future with upcoming walking tour dates!

#### Volunteers Needed for May Arboretum Society (MAS) Events

The May Arboretum Society is always looking for help with projects and events. You can get in on the ground floor, so to speak, with things like the annual Plant Sale and Lavender Day. Fun fact, volunteer work done for the May Arboretum Society goes toward your volunteer hours at the Arboretum! There is a column on the volunteer log sheets to indicate hours spent on all things May Arboretum Society related.

For Volunteer Opportunities, go to: <https://www.mayarboretumsociety.org/volunteer-sign-up.html>

Memberships begin at \$20 a year at the individual level and includes many benefits such as early access to events and great discounts!

For details go to: <https://www.mayarboretumsociety.org/become-a-member.html>

#### You may be a poet and didn't even know it!

With Katie Bird leaving the Arboretum, we will no longer be having our bi-monthly Words on Birds article and we have some space to fill! If you have pictures of a special place in the Arboretum, a story to tell, or a poem you've written, we would love to hear all about it. Poems and stories can be up to 400 words and pictures show best if they are at least 600 x 600 pixels.

Contact Bev Treadway at [lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com](mailto:lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com) for more information.



Good Nature! Walking Tours for Seniors



May Arboretum Society's Lavender Day



## Volunteer's Corner

By: Denise Evans

### Fall back in to volunteering

September and October are especially busy times for volunteering at all of Washoe County's parks. Cooler weather and an end to summer vacations are a likely cause—and timing really couldn't be better with so much to do. Leaves start to fall and summer blooms fade, so general maintenance is constantly needed. If you haven't volunteered at the Arboretum for a while and are uncertain of how to dive back in, please just give me a call (775-785-4512) or send me an email ([devans@washoecounty.us](mailto:devans@washoecounty.us)). I can meet with you for the first time or two back, or help coordinate some time working alongside another volunteer. Many volunteers tend to work together in a group, so sometimes it's just a matter of finding out where to find everyone. I can help with that, so please don't hesitate to reach out! I hope to welcome you back soon!

### Monthly Gardening Series

Over the past two months, Bill Carlos led volunteers in revisiting pruning concepts with "Rejuvenation Pruning for Flowering Shrubs" and we enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Katie Bird on "Birding in the Arboretum". We just have one class left on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm in the Ranch House on "Nevada Soils". This session is an overview of soil, water and plant relationships as well as a discussion on correcting local soil problems such as high salts and high soil PH. The presentation will be followed by an activity exploring different soil textures in the Arboretum and observing water movement.

We will not be offering a class in October and will resume again next spring.

### Calling all curious gardeners!

Do you have an idea for a class you'd like to see included in our 2020 Monthly Gardening Series?? We would love your input! Email your suggestions to me at [devans@washoecounty.us](mailto:devans@washoecounty.us).



Bill Carlos presenting in August on Rejuvenation Pruning for Flowering Shrubs

# Volunteer's Corner

## The Power of Volunteerism

By: Danielle Ornelas

How many of you have heard of the May Arboretum Society? My guess is, most of you. But how many of us know what it is they do or what their mission is? The May Arboretum Society is a non-profit organization that supports the continued improvement of the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden.



Established in 1986, the May Arboretum Society has been a presence at the May Arboretum throughout the decades. During the Great Recession of 2008, the Society spearheaded the efforts of volunteers to minimize the drastic cuts being made to the arboretum's annual budget. Through volunteering in the gardens to building memberships, the Society was able to help through temporal and financial donations.

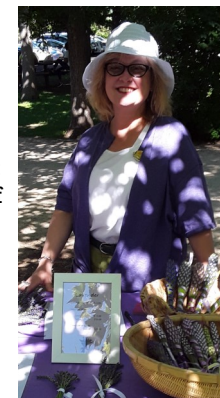
Fast forward to today, the May Arboretum Society's mission is to sustain and grow the arboretum and promote its value. Through hosting educational workshops, live music events, and festivals, the May Arboretum Society has grown in capacity to put on first class events in the Reno region.

So how does the May Arboretum Society accomplish all that it sets out to do? The society is governed by a working board. Meaning each of the board members, who are volunteers, are required to donate their time to achieve the organizations mission. This is done through facilitating events and hosting educational opportunities for the community to learn about the many benefits the arboretum has to offer.

Last summer the Society brought one of the biggest events EVER to the arboretum; Dragon Lights Reno. With over 65,000 visitors to the event, the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden was elevated to a new level of recognition within the region. In addition to Dragon Lights Reno, the Society donated more than \$220,000 to the arboretum in support of garden projects, staffing, and much more.

It is safe to say that the May Arboretum Society is one of the biggest forces of volunteerism here at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden. The next time you visit a May Arboretum Society event say hello to the many friendly faces of the Board. I know they would love the chance to chat!

*Photos from top left: Lenita Powers, Susan Mullen Vice President, Lynn Short President, Laura Robertson, Rod Dimmitt Treasurer, Catherine Tollstrop, and Bill Carlos Endowment Fund Committee Chair*



## Meet the Staff: Connie Osburn



Connie, in her beloved Burke's Garden

Connie is a familiar face around the Arboretum. Originally from Pennsylvania, Connie moved to Wisconsin for Airline school. After working for a while, Connie decided to go back to school, at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and get a double major degree in both Botany and Conservation.

After graduation, Connie worked as a landscape supervisor at Northridge Mall in Milwaukee, caring for 40 trees and 400 shrubs, with her crew of 6 men.

Connie moved to Reno after she got married. She then divorced, raised her son, and worked as a slot manager for 30 years at several different casinos until her retirement.

But Connie wanted a new challenge. She was bored and wanted to go back to work nurturing her love of plants. Connie has been at the Arboretum now for 9 years and has not slowed down. Her magic touch is evident throughout the botanical garden portion of the Arboretum. Her favorite place is Burke Garden.

To relax, Connie loves to watch her unique mix of Christian Nature Videos, sitcoms, and "tough chick" movies. Come February, you'll find Connie designing new garden ideas and sowing seeds for her next crop of plants.

## Spotlight On: Autumn Arts Lantern Workshop

### **Illuminate the Season with an Autumn Art Lantern**

Welcome in the Fall season with the fun workshop brought to you by the May Arboretum Society! If you are a MAS member you even get a discount for the class!

In this workshop you will combine images, natural materials, and more to create seasonal lanterns - just in time to light up the fall nights!

This hands-on workshop is ideal for children with an adult helper, or for teens and adults of all ages. All materials will be provided including images for your choosing. Participants may bring their own images printed art or photos, for a more personalized lantern.

*Event will be happening in October! Stay tuned for date and time.*



# Special Events at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

## September 2019

- ♦ **September 11**  
Volunteer Gardening Series  
Bill Carlos  
10am - 12pm, Nevada Soils
- ♦ **September 22**  
5th Annual ART and Nature  
10am - 4pm
- ♦ **September 24**  
Tuesday Tree Talks  
Bill Carlos  
1pm Meet at the South Entrance
- ♦ **September 28**  
Art from the Earth  
An open Art Partners event in  
collaboration with the Sanford  
Center for Aging  
10am—2pm @ Kristin's Garden

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28	30					

## October 2019

- ♦ **October 22**  
Tuesday Tree Talks  
Rod Haulenbeek  
1-2:30pm Meet at the South  
Entrance
- ♦ **October**  
Autumn Art Lanterns Workshop\*  
Stay tuned for the upcoming date  
and time

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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27	28	29	30	31		

Check back to MayCenter.com  
as we expect more events to be  
added in October once the new  
AmeriCorps Arboretum  
Educator is hired.





## ART and Nature in the Arboretum

**September 22, 2019**

**Join MAS for the 5th annual fine art and fine craft show and sale.**

ART & Nature is not just a fine crafts show, it is a fun early fall event full of activities including great food, music, face-painting, artist demonstrations, and beautiful gardens.

This annual outdoor show is a juried event yielding exceptional work, and the artists actively enjoy demonstrating their creativity during the day. Observe a multitude of mediums including visual artists, weavers, jewelers, wood turners, and more - all while relaxing with the sights and scents of autumn. ART & Nature also offers an array of performing musicians, poets and dancers for our attendees to enjoy.

In addition to purchasing one-of-a-kind art, bid on works donated by local artists in our annual silent auction.

**FOOD TRUCKS ON SIGHT**

**DATE:** September 22, 2019

**TIME:** 10:00am to 4:00pm

**LOCATION:** Throughout the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden: 1595 N. Sierra St.

**~ Admission is Free and Open to the Public ~**

**Brought to you by the May Arboretum Society**

## Interesting Spots to Check Out

### The Labyrinth Garden

By: Bev Treadway

Just outside the Arboretum walls and to the right of the south entrance, the Labyrinth Garden resides as a lovely hidden gem of the park.

Labyrinths are designed as meditative spaces , to relax your mind and spirit. They are reflective places. There is a beautiful stillness about this garden .

Our garden has a Santa Rosa patterned labyrinth path, designed to have you both start and end at the same point. It covers roughly 1/4 of a mile in a very compact area. It is amazing how restful you feel after a brief walk on the path.

The bricks and benches throughout the garden are donations and memorials for people who loved the gardens here at the park.

This garden was built in 2000 through a collaborative effort from the Attorney General's office, Police Office, District Attorney Dick Gammick, and the non-profit group **VICTORY** (Victims In Crisis, Turmoil, Or RecoverY).



Photos of the Labyrinth Garden at the May Arboretum by Bev Treadway  
Bottom right: Photo from Good Nature! Walking Tours for Seniors

Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next outdoor adventure awaits at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden!